



NC Regional Councils

Creative regional solutions

North Carolina's Association of Regional Councils of Government

JOINT NATURAL & ECONOMIC RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 27, 2013

OUR MISSION

- Our mission is to provide “**creative regional solutions**” to relevant and emerging issues in North Carolina while providing a standard of excellence in the delivery of federal, state and regional services for our member communities.

NC ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS (COGS)

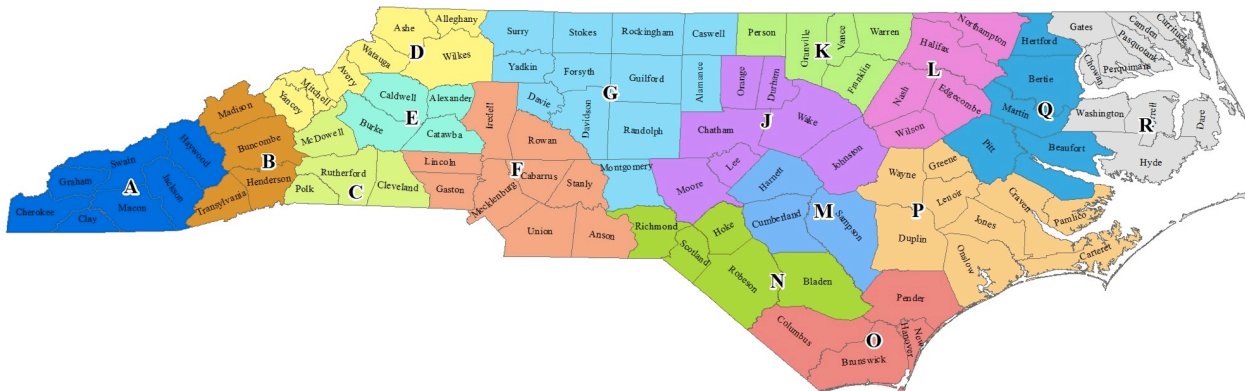
- North Carolina is served by **16 regional councils of government - not another layer of government**, but an extension of our local governments - that offer a broad range of **support services to their member local governments**, including but not limited to:
 - Aging program services
 - Community & economic development
 - Workforce development
 - Housing
 - State & federal program management for state/local gov.
 - Planning (Transportation RPO/MPO) & GIS mapping services
 - Grant writing and management
 - Regional collaboration
 - Partnership building
 - Local government management assistance

WHEN COGS WERE ESTABLISHED

- Regional councils of government (COGs) in North Carolina are the result of **1968** federal legislation (A-95 Clearinghouse Review Process-Intergovernmental Cooperation Act) that charged the N.C. Department of Administration with developing “. . .**a system of multi-county regional planning districts to cover the entire state**” (GS 143-341) to reduce duplication of governmental services.
- COGs have been formally operating in the state since **1972** although many were organized long before the official state designation.

HOW WE CURRENTLY FUNCTION

North Carolina Regional Councils

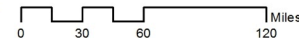


Regional Councils

- Albemarle Commission - Region R
- Cape Fear Council of Governments - Region O
- Centralina Council of Governments - Region F
- Eastern Carolina Council of Governments - Region P
- High Country Council of Governments - Region D
- Isothermal Planning & Development Commission - Region C
- Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments - Region K
- Land-of-Sky Regional Council - Region B
- Lumber River Council of Governments - Region N
- Mid-Carolina Council of Governments - Region M
- Mid-East Commission - Region Q
- Piedmont Triad Regional Council - Region G
- Southwestern Commission - Region A
- Triangle J Council of Governments - Region J
- Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments - Region L
- Western Piedmont Council of Governments - Region E



1 in = 60 miles

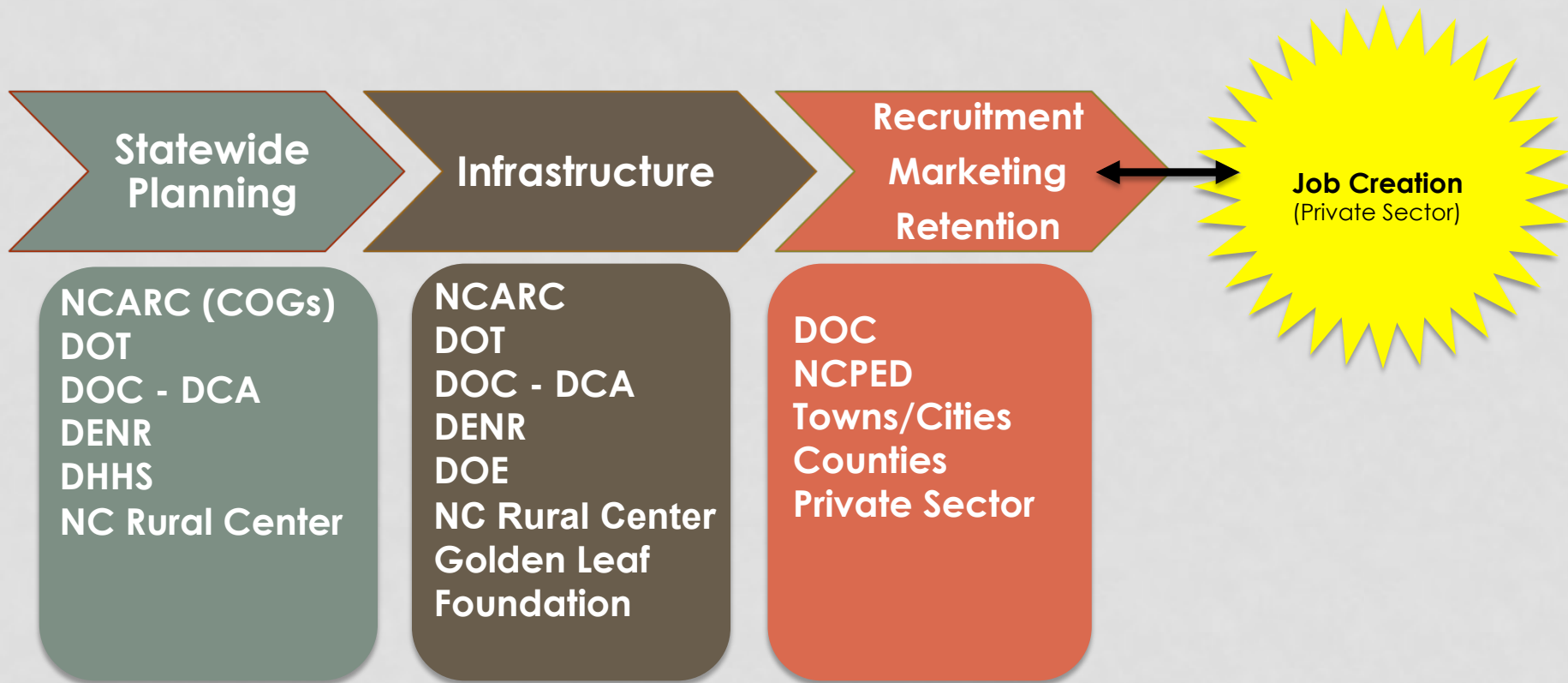


Map Created By: Piedmont Triad Regional Council

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE NOW?

- **Now:** Regional councils (COGs) are more important today because **critical issues such as water resources, transportation infrastructure, etc., cross jurisdictional lines** and financial resources have been reduced.
- COGS are “owned and operated by local governments” and **keep funding and management at the local level.**
- Provide management assistance for local governments; i.e., **larger communities support COG assistance to smaller units of government in their respective regions to help build efficiencies in government and address needs.**

WHO DOES WHAT IN NC



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Years	State Funding	Funds Leveraged	ROI
FY 07 - 08	943,200	55M	\$58 to 1
FY 08 - 09	718,160	125M	\$173 to 1
FY 09 - 10	380,000	★ 319M	\$839 to 1
FY 10 - 11	366,668	★ 587M	\$1,601 to 1
FY 11 - 12	364,633	243M	\$666 to 1
Totals	\$2.8M	\$1.3 B	\$479 to 1



ARRA Funding and major ED projects

HOW ARE COG'S DIFFERENT

- **Enabled by State Statute (GS 143-31)** and created by the local governments we serve. **COGs are membership organizations!**
 - Local governments **CHOOSE** to be members.
- **No other government organizations duplicate these services:**
 - Securing and managing grants for local governments that fuel community and economic development.
 - Delivery of Federal and State core services:
 - Aging
 - Transportation
 - Workforce

BUDGETARY IMPACT

1) How have reductions affected your agency?

- The COGs have received a 62% cut in recent years and therefore have less money to use as a “match” to federal and foundation grants for our local unit of government. We have had to cut free services in many situations.

2) What measures have you taken?

- Worked more creatively and efficiently and our staffs have been called upon to work harder.

3) Have you been able to generate other resources?

- Yes, COGs always have through member dues, grant management and fees for select services.

BUDGETARY IMPACT

- **Can we be self-supporting?**
 - Yes, COGs have been and will continue to be self-supporting.
- **What if NER Sub-committee and the General Assembly funds only “Program Specific Initiatives?”**
 - We would welcome that approach and have some suggestions should we be asked to offer them. In many instances, however, **COGs use the State Technical Assistance Funds as a local cash match on behalf of their smaller local governments to meet certain grant requirements.** Program flexibility in that regard is helpful.

WHY SHOULD NCGA CONTINUE TO FUND COGS?

- We offer excellent value to the state and our local governments.
- Our state funds are used **to provide services to units of local government** who generally **don't have either the expertise or resources** to execute the planning and management necessary for community and economic development initiatives, or **feel we offer a more efficient and cost-effective solution.**

QUESTIONS & MORE INFORMATION

- **Questions?**
- **Contact: Betty or David Huskins**
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